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READING®

reading on your own

STEP

3

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Happy Birthday, Bloom!







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Dear Parent:

Congratulations! Your child is taking the first steps on an exciting journey. The destination? Independent reading!



STEP INTO READING® will help your child get there. The program offers five steps to reading success. Each step includes fun stories and colorful art. There are also Step into Reading Sticker Books, Step into Reading Math Readers, Step into Reading Phonics Readers, Step into Reading Write-In Readers, and Step into Reading Phonics Boxed Sets—a complete literacy program with something for every child.

Learning to Read, Step by Step!



Ready to Read **Preschool–Kindergarten**

- big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues

For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



Reading with Help **Preschool–Grade 1**

- basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories

For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



Reading on Your Own **Grades 1–3**

- engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics

For children who are ready to read on their own.



Reading Paragraphs **Grades 2–3**

- challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories

For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



Ready for Chapters **Grades 2–4**

- chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art

For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides. Children can progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading, no matter what their grade.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

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Happy Birthday, Bloom!

By Mary Tillworth

Illustrated by Cartobaleno

Random House  New York

It was time for winter break!

The Winx fairies

were packing their suitcases.



They chatted
about their holiday plans.

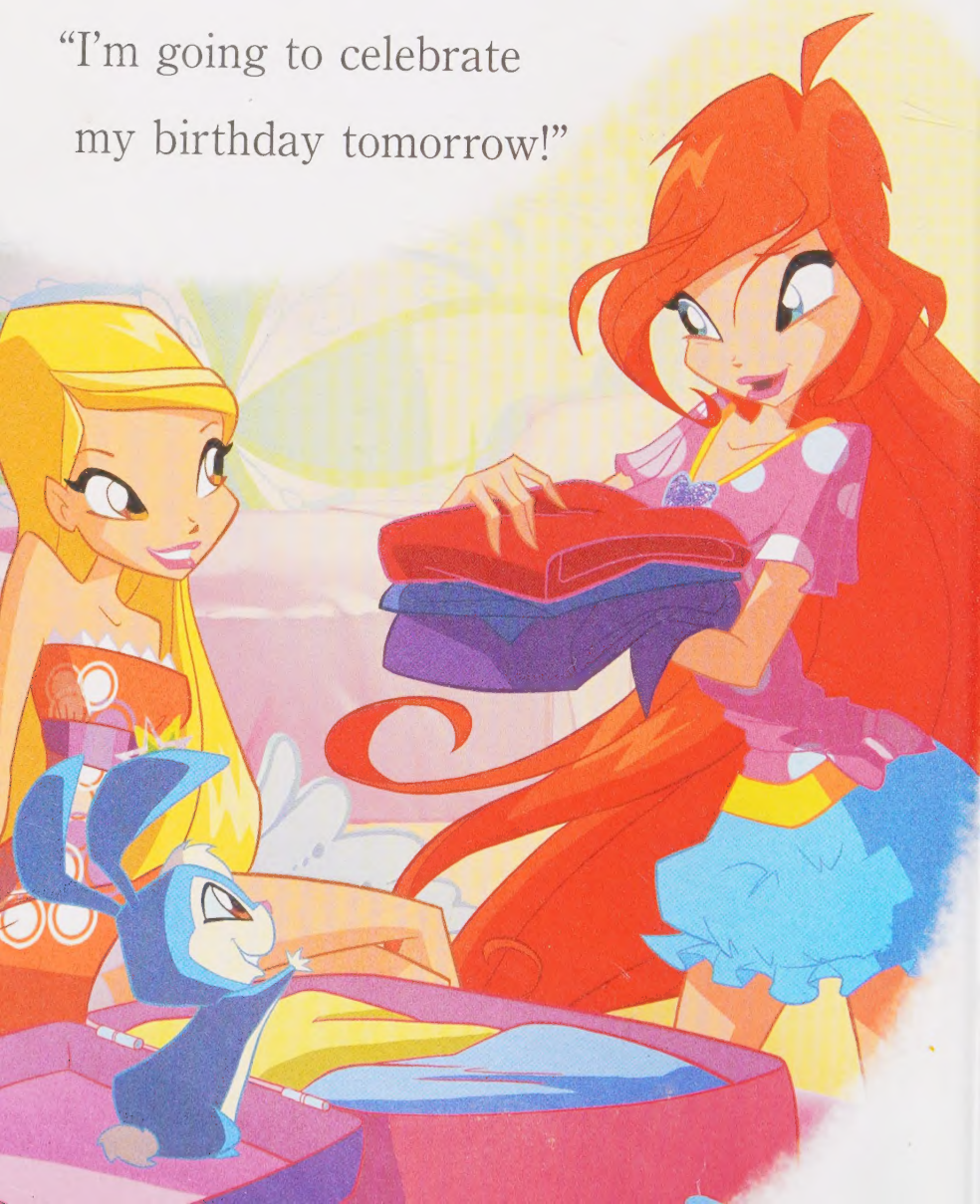


“What will you do
on your vacation?”

Stella asked Bloom.

Bloom smiled.

“I’m going to celebrate
my birthday tomorrow!”





The other fairies gasped.
“Your birthday is
during winter break?”
asked Stella.
Bloom nodded.
Everyone was sad
to miss Bloom’s birthday.



“Hey, it’s okay.
I’ll miss you guys.
But my mom and dad
will make sure
I have a good time,”
said Bloom.

The fairies finished packing.
One by one,
they headed out.
Only Bloom and
her pet bunny, Kiko, were left.



“Whoops!” said Stella.

She had forgotten her purse!



Stella went to the door.
She heard Bloom
on the other side.
“Oh, Kiko,
I wish my friends could be
with me on my birthday,”
said Bloom.





Stella had an idea.

She would talk

to Musa, Flora, Aisha, and Tecna.

They would throw Bloom

a surprise birthday party!

Stella called the girls
when she got home.

Everyone was excited.

Each of them would give Bloom
a great birthday gift!



The Trix witches
were getting ready
for their winter break, too.
“What evil deeds
can we do on our time off?”
asked Stormy.



Icy had an idea.
They would ruin
the Winx's vacations!



The Trix crowded
around Darcy's crystal ball.
"Crystal ball,
show us the Winx!"
Darcy chanted.



The ball clouded over.

The Trix saw the fairies!

They overheard the Winx's plans
for Bloom's birthday.





“Let’s wreck Bloom’s birthday!”

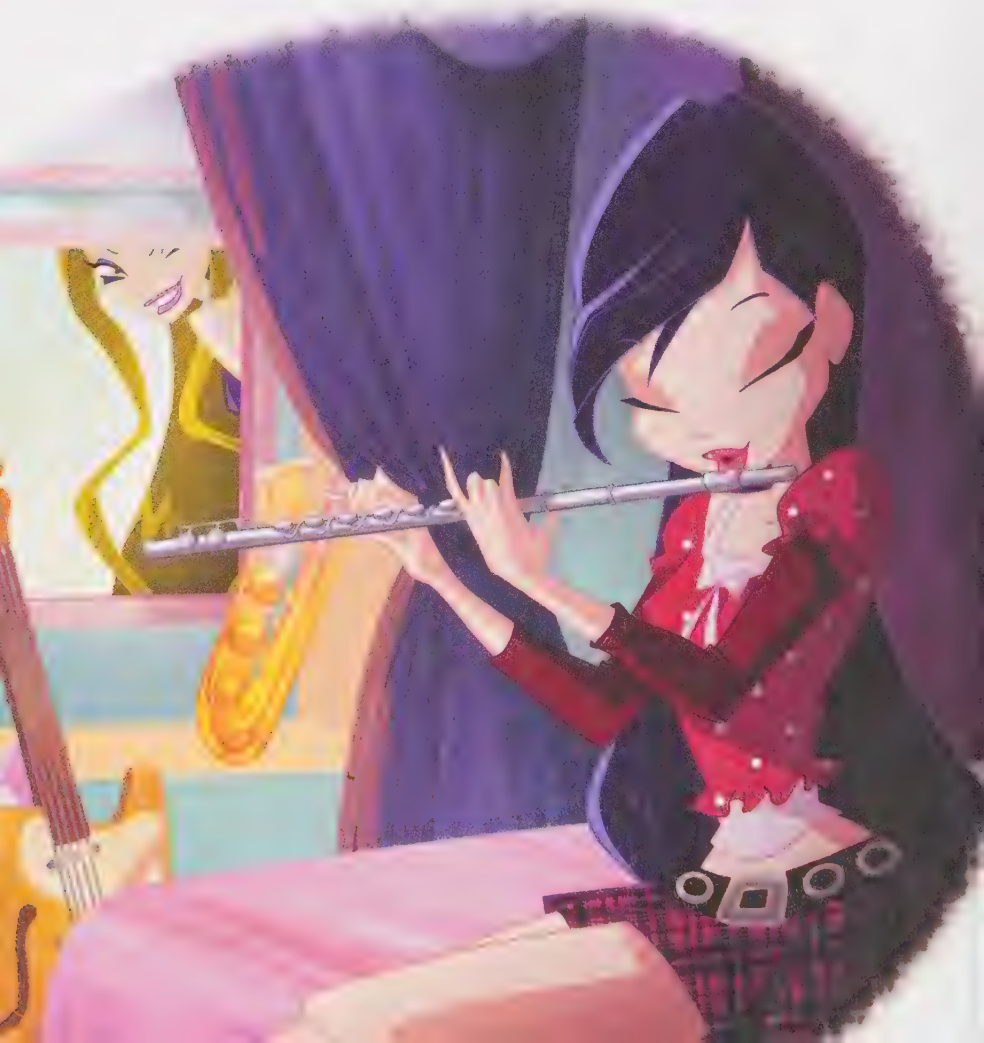
Icy cackled.

The evil Trix came up
with a plan.



They would ruin
Bloom's surprise gifts.
They flew off into the sky.

Darcy flew to Musa's home.
She saw Musa playing her flute.
She was composing
a birthday tune for Bloom!
When Musa finished,
she left the room.





Darcy cast a spell on the flute.
The next time it was played,
the notes would come out wrong!

Stormy flew to Flora's home.
She saw Flora
coaxing a tiny plant.



The plant grew
bright orange petals.
It was a flower for Bloom!



The flower finished growing.

Flora put it

in a box.





Stormy crept inside
after Flora had left the room.
She cast a spell.
The petals turned brown.
The leaves fell off.
Stormy smiled
and closed the box.



Icy flew to Tecna's home.

Tecna held
her latest invention.

It was for Bloom!

"With this mirror,
Bloom can see her parents
no matter where she is,"
said Tecna.





Tecna slipped the mirror
into a velvet bag.

Icy cast a spell on the mirror
when Tecna left.

It cracked into pieces.

Icy put the broken mirror
back into the bag.

Next, Icy found Aisha.

Aisha had made
a necklace for Bloom.

It was a glass dragon
filled with sparkling water!



Aisha put the necklace
in a jewelry case.

When Aisha left,
Icy cast a spell.

The glass dragon broke
into tiny pieces!

Icy closed the jewelry case.





Then the three Trix witches
flew to Stella's home.
Stella had made
the perfect dress for Bloom!

Stella put the dress
in a dress bag and left.
The Trix swooped down.



They destroyed
Bloom's birthday dress!
They put the dress back
in the bag.



The next day arrived.
It was Bloom's birthday.
"Magic of Winx!"
the fairies said together.



They all appeared outside
Bloom's house in a blink.
It was time to celebrate!



“Surprise!”

shouted the Winx fairies
when Bloom opened the door.



She was so happy!

Her friends had surprised her!



The Winx friends gathered
around Bloom's birthday cake.

Musa tried to play her flute.

Screech! Screech!

Bloom opened Flora's gift.

"Oh, no—what happened?"

Flora cried.



Tecna pulled out the broken mirror.
Aisha held up
the broken necklace.
Stella opened the dress bag.
“This is not what I designed!”
she said.





“What happened to all of Bloom’s presents?” asked Flora.

Suddenly, the girls heard mean laughter.

Bloom pointed to the window.
Outside, the Trix flew past.
“Happy birthday, Bloom!” they cackled.



Bloom smiled.

She told the Trix,

“You ruined my gifts,

but you didn’t ruin my birthday.



It's the *best* birthday
as long as my friends are *all* here!"
The other Winx fairies
smiled, too.



The witches were angry.
Their evil plan
had been ruined!



“We’ll get you next time, fairies!”

Icy said.

The Trix flew off, defeated.



"Group hug!"
said Bloom.
The fairies
gathered around.





"Friendship of Winx!"
they cheered.

Musa took out her guitar.
She played a rocking birthday tune!
The fairies sang along.
Bloom blew out her candles.
“Thanks for throwing me
the best birthday party
a fairy could hope for!”
she said.





J EASY TILLWORTH
Tillworth, Mary
Happy birthday, Bloom!

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To learn about
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